

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SR-02

ORM-03 DRC-01 /158 W

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R 211115Z SEP 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3807

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2820

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG JO XF

SUBJECT: GOE PRESS CAUTIOUS ON JORDANIAN AMNESTY OF
POLITICAL PRISONERS

1. OVER PAST FEW DAYS EGYPTIAN PRESS HAS MAINTAINED RESERVED
LINE TOWARD JORDANIAN AMNESTY OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. SEPTEMBER
20 AHAM'S MAIN STORY BANNERED "APPRECIATION" AMONG ARAB CIRCLES
FOR HUSSEIN'S RELEASE OF FEDAYEEN PRISONERS, INCLUDING
ABU DAWUD, BUT NOTED THAT "THESE CIRCLES HAD SOME RESERVATIONS
ON THE CONTENTS OF THE AMNESTY DECISION." RESERVATIONS
REPORTEDLY CONCERN (A) FACT THAT RELEASED INDIVIDUALS CANNOT
LEAVE JORDAN, THEREBY CREATING HOSTAGES OF THEM; (B) INABILITY
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OF PALESTINIANS LIVING ABROAD AND WHOSE NAMES HAVE BEEN TAKEN

OFF JORDANIAN BLACKLISTS TO RETURN TO JORDAN; AND (C) STATEMENTS BY JORDANIAN OFFICIALS THAT THE GENERAL AMNESTY DOES NOT MEAN THE RETURN OF FEDAYEEN TO JORDAN.

2. SEPTEMBER 21 AHAM CONTAINS CENTER PAGE ARTICLE REFLECTING SIMILAR LINE, THAT DESPITE AMNESTY, QUESTION REMAINS AS TO WHETHER RELEASED PERSONS COULD LEAVE JORDAN. MOREOVER, AHAM NOTES, GOJ HAS NOT INDICATED IT WOULD PERMIT RESUMPTION OF FEDAYEEN ACTIVITY FROM JORDANIAN SOIL. AHAM'S ARTICLE RAISES ADDITIONAL QUESTION CONCERNING RECONSTITUTION OF EASTERN FRONT. IN AHAM'S WORDS: "SOURCES . . . HAVE STATED THAT EGYPT AND SYRIA BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO REACTIVATE THE EASTERN FRONT. THIS WOULD BE A FIRST STEP TOWARD THE UNIFICATION OF ARAB FORCES AGAINST ISRAEL. ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, THERE IS A PLAN WHICH IS STILL A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN EGYPT, SYRIA AND JORDAN, STIPULATING THE STATIONING OF PLA UNITS . . . ALONG THE LENGTH OF THE CEASEFIRE LINE AT THE JORDAN RIVER. MOST OF THE PLA IS PRESENTLY STATIONED IN SYRIA."

3. SEPTEMBER 21 EDITORIALS IN AKHBAR AND AHAM CALL FOR UNIFICATION OF ARAB RANKS AND MOBILIZATION OF ARAB FORCES. AKHBAR STATES THAT PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE MUST PLAY DEFINITE ROLE WITHIN ARAB RANKS. AHAM'S MANAGING EDITOR, AL-GAMMAL, SAYS HE BELIEVES THAT THE "AGREEMENT" (ON AMNESTY) REACHED DURING TRIPARTITE SUMMIT WAS INTENDED TO RELEASE PALESTINIANS SO THEY COULD PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE IN UNIFIED ARAB ACTION. AL-GAMMAL PROPOSES THAT HUSSEIN INVITE RESISTANCE LEADERS TO MEETING TO DISCUSS JORDANIAN/PALESTINIAN RELATIONS.

4. COMMENT: GOE APPEARS HAPPY TO SUGGEST IN PRESS THAT JORDANIAN AMNESTY IS RESULT OF CAIRO TRIPARTITE MEETINGS. SENSITIVE TO PALESTINIAN SUSPICIONS ABOUT ANY HUSSEIN INITIATIVE, HOWEVER, GOE ALSO APPEARS INTERESTED IN CONVEYING IMPRESSION THAT AMNESTY DOES NOT EXEMPT GOJ FROM ITS OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD RESISTANCE, SUCH AS PERMITTING FEDAYEEN FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND BASE OF ACTIVITIES IN JORDAN. SMITH

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Disposition Remarks:
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